

REMARKS

Of claims 1-4 and 20 pending in this application, claim 20 has been cancelled and claim 1 has been amended to more particularly claim the invention. Reconsideration of this application in view of this response is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eames. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 20, which claim was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim (claim 1). Therefore, it is believed that this rejection has been overcome.

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Robinson. As previously discussed, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 20. Therefore, it is believed that this rejection has been overcome.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests that this Amendment under 37 CFR § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner, placing all pending claims in condition for allowance, Applicant submits that the claim amendments do not raise new issues or necessitate additional search of the art by Examiner.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite the prosecution.

It is believed that no fee is due with the filing of this response, as the number of claims does not exceed the highest number previously paid for. If a fee is due, please charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 12-1677. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 not accounted for, such an extension is requested and the fee should be charged to the aforementioned Deposit Account.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on January 14, 2004

JERROLD J. LITZINGER

Person Signing Certificate

Jerrold J. Litzinger
Signature of Person Signing
Certificate

Jan 14 2004
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

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